Buying of N-sub by Pakistan from China

257. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the National Herald of the 16th September, 1990 captioned 'Pak-buying N-sub from China';

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistani navy's major surface fleet has gone up from 8 to 16 during 1989-90; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated to augment the fleet of Indian navy in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item mentions a report from the Far Eastern Economic Review published from Hongkong about the likely acquisition of a nuclear submarine by Pakistan from China and also quotes the views on the subject of an unspecified Expert of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government closely monitor the developments in the region which have a bearing on the security of the country and take appropriate measures to maintain full defence preparedness at all times.

Parameters of Eighth Five Year Plan

258. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 69 given in Rajya Sabha on the 1st January, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the parameters of the Eighth Five Year Plan and its outlay have been laid down; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the contemplated rates of growth in respect of agriculture and industry and other targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The Approach to Eighth Five Year Plan 1990—95 indicated the following parameters of the Plan:

(i) Growth rate in GDP—5.5 per cent

(ii) Average savings rate—22 per cent of GDP

(iii) Net foreign resources inflow—1.5 per cent of GDP

(iv) Minimum annual volume growth in exports—12 per cent.

(b) The exercises relating to the sectoral targets and outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan period are under way.

Drop in production of cement

259. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cement industry had lately expressed serious apprehensions about substantial drop in production of cement due to critical coal supply position;

(b) if so, what was the overall coal supply position to this industry as on January 31, 1991;

(c) what steps have been taken to maintain proper supplies of coal to the cement industry; and

(d) what was the cement production during 1990 and its comparative figures for 1989 and 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Cement Manufacturers' Association has represented to the Government for increasing the availability of coal for the cement sector with a view to maximise cement production.